Safety Instructions & Operator's Manual for

SNAPPER®

21" STEEL DECK WALK MOWERS SERIES 15

PUSH MODEL
215015

MODEL NUMBER EXPLANATION

21	50	15

CUTTING WIDTH
ENGINE HORSE POWER
SERIES DESIGNATION

21 – 21" Cutting Width	**15 - Series Designation**
50 – 5.0 HP (Engine Horse Power)	

Thank you for buying a SNAPPER Product! Before operating your Walk Behind, read this manual carefully and pay particular attention to the "IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS" on Pages 2 & 3. Remember that all power equipment can be dangerous if used improperly. Also keep in mind that SAFETY requires careful use in accordance with the operating instructions and common sense.

SNAPPER® McDonough, GA., 30253 U.S.A.

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MANUAL No. 7-3135 (I.R. 9/2/99)

IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

WARNING: This powerful cutting machine is capable of amputating hands and feet and can throw objects that can cause injury and damage! Failure to comply with the following SAFETY instructions could result in serious injury or death to the operator or other persons. The owner of the machine must understand these instructions and must allow only persons who understand these instructions to operate machine. Each person operating the machine must be of sound mind and body and must not be under the influence of any substance, which might impair vision, dexterity or judgment. If you have any questions pertaining to your machine which your dealer cannot answer to your satisfaction, call or write the Customer Service Department at SNAPPER, McDonough, Georgia 30253. Phone: (1-800-935-2967).

PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN

Tragic accidents can occur if the operator is not alert to the presence of children. Children are often attracted to the machine and the mowing activity. Never assume that children will remain where you last saw them.

1. **KEEP children out of the mowing area and under the watchful care of a responsible adult.**
2. **DO NOT allow children in yard when machine is operated and turn machine OFF if anyone enters the area.**
3. **DO NOT allow pre-teenage children to operate machine.**
4. **ALLOW only responsible adults & teenagers with mature judgment under close adult supervision to operate machine.**
5. **DO NOT pull mower backwards unless absolutely necessary. LOOK and SEE behind and down for children, pets and hazards before and while backing.**
6. **USE EXTRA CARE when approaching blind corners, shrubs, trees, or other objects that may obscure vision.**

SLOPE OPERATION

1. **Slopes are a major factor related to slip and fall accidents, which can result in severe injury. All slopes require extra caution. If you feel uneasy on a slope, DO NOT mow it.**
2. **Mow across slopes, never up-and-down. Exercise extreme CAUTION when changing directions on slopes. DO NOT mow steep slopes or other areas where stability or traction is in doubt.**
3. **Use extra care with crass catchers or other attachments; these affect the handling and the stability of the machine.**

PREPARATION

1. **Read, understand, and follow instructions and warnings in this manual and on the mower, engine and attachments. Know the controls and the proper use of the mower before starting.**
2. **Only mature, responsible persons shall operate the machine and only after proper instruction.**

PREPARATION

(Continued From Previous Column)

3. **Data indicates that operators age 60 and above, are involved in a large percentage of mower-related injuries. These operators should evaluate their ability to operate the mower safely enough to protect themselves and others from serious injury.**
4. **Handle fuel with extra care. Fuels are flammable and vapors are explosive. Use only an approved fuel container. DO NOT remove fuel cap or add fuel with engine running. Add fuel outdoors only with engine stopped and cool. Clean spilled fuel and oil from machine. DO NOT smoke.**
5. **Check the area to be mowed and remove all objects such as toys, wire, rocks, limbs and other objects that could cause injury if thrown by blade or interfere with mowing. Also note the location of holes, stumps, and other possible hazards.**
6. **Keep people and pets out of the mowing area. Immediately, STOP Blade, Stop engine and Stop mower if anyone enters the area.**
7. **Check shields, deflectors, switches, blade controls and other safety devices frequently for proper operation and location.**
8. **Make sure all safety decals are clearly legible. Replace if damaged.**
9. **Protect yourself when mowing and wear safety glasses, long pants and substantial footwear. DO NOT mow barefooted or with sandals.**
10. **Know how to STOP blade and engine quickly in preparation for emergencies.**
11. **Use extra care when loading or unloading the machine into a trailer or truck.**
12. **Check grass catcher components frequently for signs of wear or deterioration and replace as needed to prevent injury from thrown objects going through weak or torn spots.**

IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

OPERATION

1. **DO NOT put hands or feet near or under rotating parts. Keep clear of discharge area while engine is running.**
2. **STOP engine when crossing gravel drives, walks, or roads, and under any conditions where thrown objects might be a hazard.**
3. **Mow only in daylight or good artificial light.**
4. **DO NOT operate mower while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.**
5. **After striking a foreign object or if mower vibrates abnormally, STOP the engine, disconnect and secure spark plug wire. Inspect the mower for any damage and repair the damage.**
6. **DO NOT mow near drop offs, ditches or embankments. Operator could lose footing or balance.**
7. **STAY ALERT for holes and other hidden hazards. Tall grass can hide obstacles. Keep away from ditches, washouts, culverts, fences and protruding objects.**
8. **DO NOT mow on wet grass. Always be sure of your footing. Keep a firm hold on the handle and walk, never run. Slipping could cause injury.**
9. **DO NOT leave the machine with the engine running. STOP BLADE and STOP ENGINE before leaving the operators position for any reason.**
10. **Before cleaning, repairing or inspecting make certain engine, blade and all moving parts have STOPPED. Disconnect and secure spark plug wire away from plug to prevent accidental starting.**
11. **STOP engine and wait until the blade comes to complete STOP before removing grass bag and/or clearing grass.**
12. **DO NOT operate mower without the entire grass catcher or guards in place. DO NOT point discharge at people, passing cars, windows or doors.**
13. **Slow down before turning.**
14. **Watch out for traffic when near or crossing roadways.**
15. **DO NOT operate engine in enclosed areas. Engine exhaust gases contain carbon monoxide, a deadly poison.**

MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE

1. **DO NOT store mower or fuel container inside where fumes may reach an open flame, spark or pilot light such as in a water heater, furnace, clothes dryer or other gas appliance. Allow engine to cool before storing machine in an enclosure. Store fuel container out of reach of children in a well ventilated, unoccupied building.**
2. **Keep mower and engine free of grass, leaves or excess grease to reduce fire hazard and engine overheating.**
3. **When draining fuel tank, drain fuel into an approved container outdoors and away from open flame.**
4. **Keep all bolts, especially blade bolts, nuts and screws properly tight. Check that all cotter pins are in proper position.**
5. **Always provide adequate ventilation when running engine. Engine exhaust gases contain carbon monoxide, a deadly poison.**
6. **Service engine and make adjustments only when engine is stopped. Removed spark plug wire from spark plug and secure wire away from spark plug to prevent accidental starting.**
7. **DO NOT change engine governor speed settings or overspeed engine.**
8. **Check grass bag assembly frequently for wear or deterioration to avoid thrown objects and exposure to moving parts. Replace with new bag if loose seams or tears are evident. Replace slider or bag adapter if broken or cracked.**
9. **Mower blades are sharp and can cut. Wrap the blades or wear heavy leather gloves and use CAUTION when handling them.**
10. **DO NOT test for spark by grounding spark plug next to spark plug hole; spark plug could ignite gas exiting engine.**
11. **Have machine serviced by an authorized SNAPPER dealer at least once a year and have the dealer install any new safety devices.**
12. **Use only genuine SNAPPER replacement parts to assure that original standards are maintained.**

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Section 1 - FAMILIARIZATION

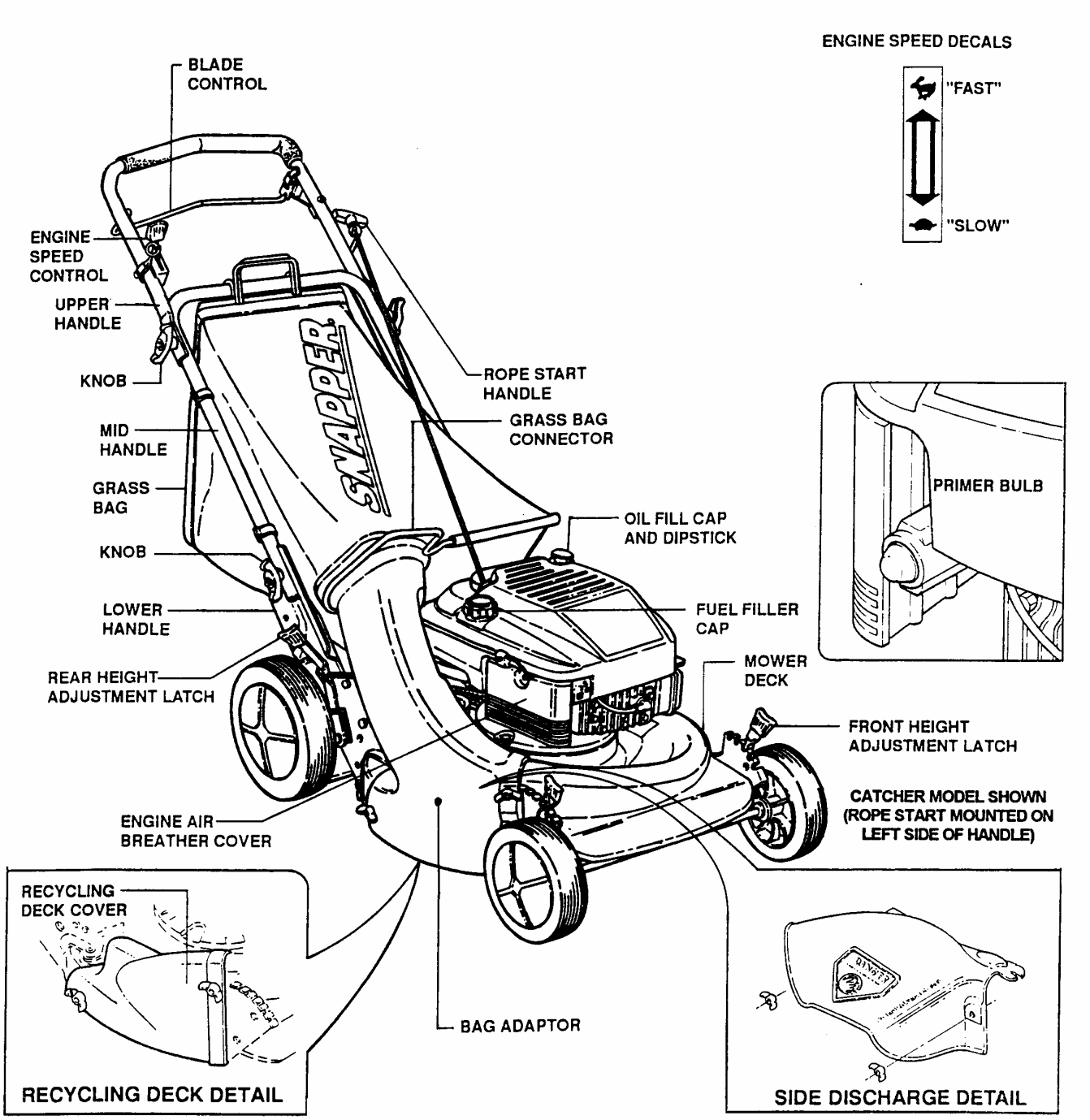


FIGURE 1.1

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This manual has been prepared for the operators of the SNAPPER WALK BEHIND MOWERS. Its purpose, aside from recommending operating and routine service requirements, is to promote safety through the use of accepted operating practices. **Read, Understand and Follow** the "IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS" on Pages 2 & 3 of this manual and all safety messages on the mower and attachments before operating the mower.

1.2 NOMENCLATURE

The nomenclature drawing above, Figure 1.1, shows the essential parts of the SNAPPER WALK BEHIND MOWERS. It is recommended that all operators of the mower become thoroughly familiar with the controls, parts and operation of the mower before operating. Specific details involving the engine are found in the separate engine owner's manual. Study these manuals before operating and keep both handy for future reference.

Section 2 - OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2.1 PRE-START CHECK LIST

Make the following checks and perform the service required before each start-up.

2.1.1. Check guards, deflectors, grass bag, adapter and covers to make sure all are in place and securely tightened.

2.1.2. Check blade control and wheel drive control to insure they work freely. See Figure 2.1.

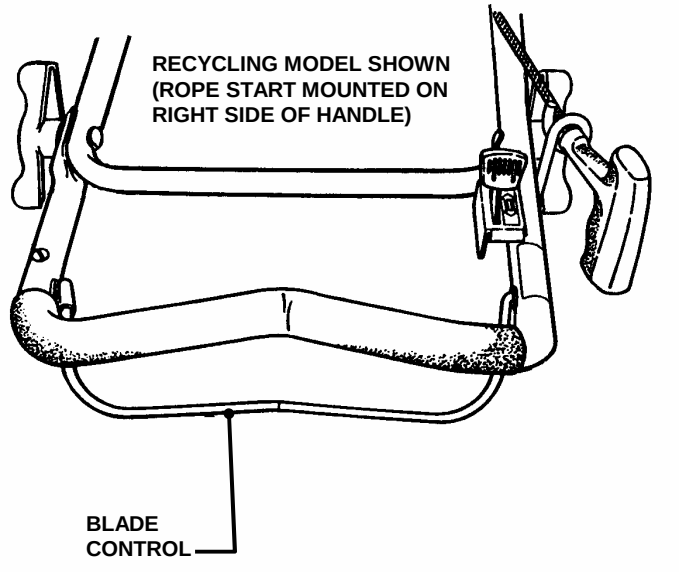


FIGURE 2.1

2.1.3. Check cutting height. Adjust to desired height.

2.1.4. Check engine oil and add oil as needed to bring level up to the full mark. Refer to Engine Owner's Manual for oil specifications. See Figure 2.2.

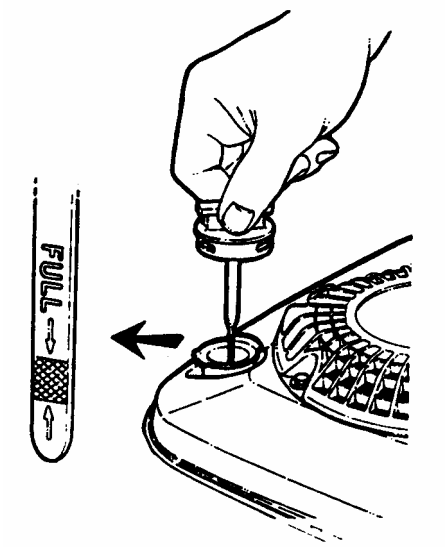


FIGURE 2.2

2.1.5. Add fuel to tank after pushing the mower outside where fumes can safely dissipate. Make sure cap is tightened after refueling. Refer to Engine Owners Manual for specifications.

2.1.6. Clean exterior surfaces of cutting deck and engine of any accumulation of spilled fuel, dirt, grass, oil, etc. Keep engine air intake screen and cooling fins clear at all times.

2.2 STARTING & OPERATION

2.2.1. ENGINE & BLADE (Primer Models)

1. Move engine speed control to the "Fast" (Rabbit) position. See Figure 2.3.

NOTE: Stop the engine (and blade) by releasing the blade control.

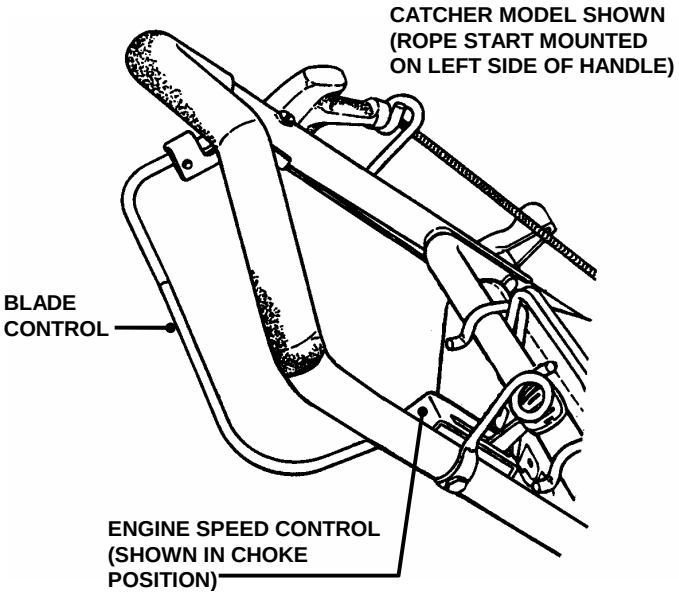


FIGURE 2.3

2. Push primer button three times to start a cold engine. **NOTE:** Do not use primer button to start warm engine.

3. Pull blade control against handle.

4. Pull rope start handle to crank engine.

5. After engine starts, allow a brief warm-up until engine runs smooth.

Section 2 - OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2.3 STOPPING

Stop engine and blade by releasing the blade control. Stop forward motion of mower by releasing the wheel drive control.

2.4 HANDLE HEIGHT ADJUSTMENT

The height of the mower handle can be adjusted as follows:

1. Loosen the lower nuts on each lower handle as shown in Figure 2.5.

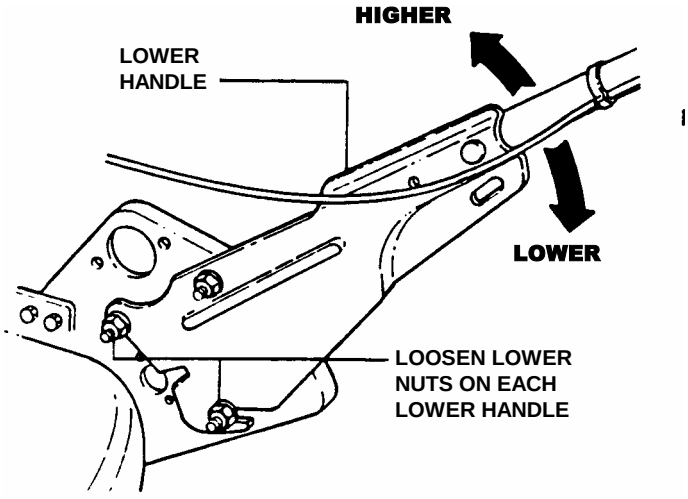


FIGURE 2.5

2. Move upper mower handle up or down until the desired position is achieved.

3. Tighten the lower nuts on each lower handle to maintain desired position.

⚠ WARNING ⚠

Stop engine and mower blade by releasing the blade control before adjusting cutting height or handle height.

2.5 CUTTING HEIGHT ADJUSTMENT

1. Pull the height adjusting latch outward and move to desired cutting height. See Figure 2.6.

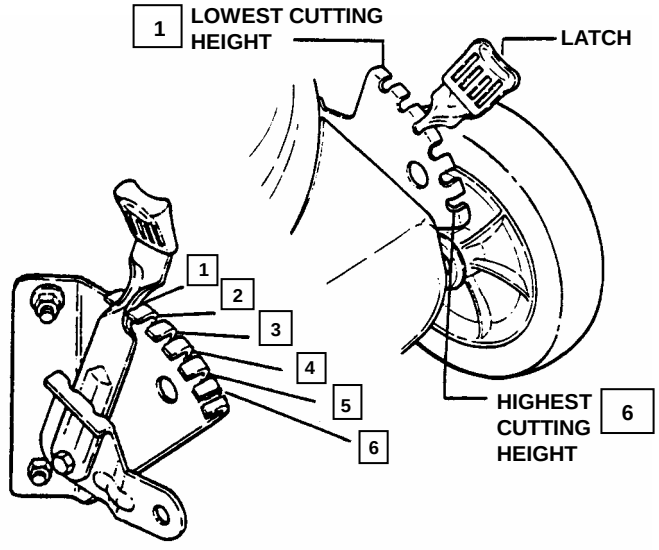


FIGURE 2.6

2. Set all wheels at the same cutting height. The highest cutting position is Notch 6. The lowest cutting position is Notch 1. See Figure 2.7.

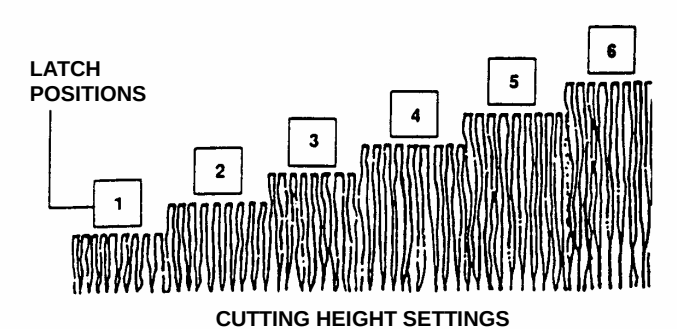


FIGURE 2.7

Section 2 - OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

WARNING

DO NOT attempt any maintenance, adjustments or service with engine and blade running. STOP engine and blade. Disconnect spark plug wire and secure away from spark plug. Engine and components are HOT. Avoid serious burns, allow sufficient time for all components to cool.

2.6 RECYCLING OPERATION

NOTE: For best recycling results, cut up to a maximum of 1/3 of grass blade length and recycle ONLY when grass is dry.

1. Set all wheels in the highest cutting position (Notch 6).

2. Move engine speed control to “FAST” (Rabbit) position.

3. Move ground speed control to slowest speed setting.

4. Proceed mowing slowly. If grass is very dense, lower each rear wheel latch one notch lower than the front wheel latches to improve recycling performance.

WARNING

DO NOT operate without entire Grass Catcher or guard in place. Grass Catcher components are subject to deterioration during normal use. Inspect frequently and replace worn or damaged components immediately.

2.7 INSTALLATION of GRASS CATCHER

Install grass catcher by sliding connector over flange of adapter. See Figure 2.8. Attach grass bag hooks over middle handle cross bar. See Figure 2.9.

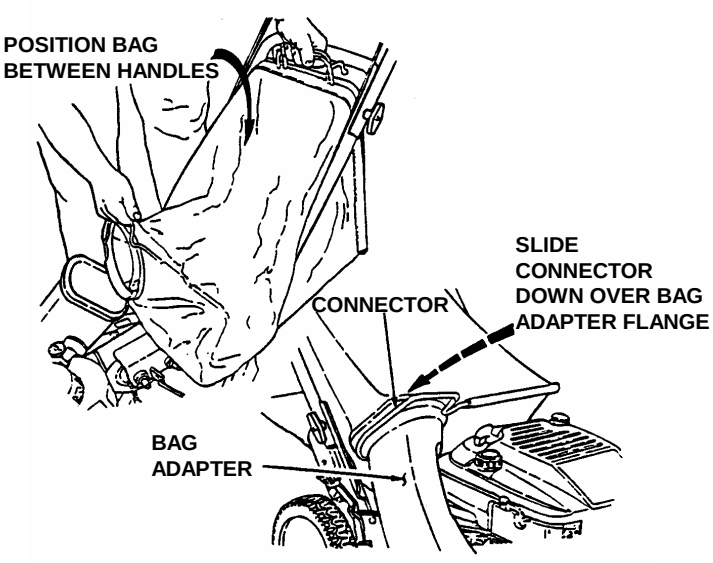


FIGURE 2.8

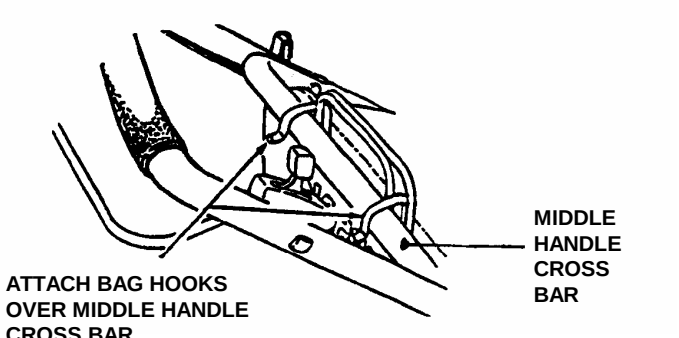


FIGURE 2.9

Section 3 – MAINTENANCE

3.1 INTRODUCTION

To retain the quality of the mower, use genuine SNAPPER replacement parts only. Contact a local SNAPPER dealer for parts and service assistance. For the correct part or information for a particular mower, always mention model and serial number.

3.2 SERVICE - AFTER FIRST 5 HOURS

3.2.1. CHANGE ENGINE OIL

WARNING

DO NOT attempt any maintenance, adjustments or service with engine and blade running. STOP engine and blade. Disconnect spark plug wire and secure away from spark plug. Engine and components are HOT. Avoid serious burns, allow sufficient time for all components to cool.

1. Refer to Engine Manual for proper oil specifications and procedures.

2. For simplest/cleanest oil change, loosen lower handle wing nuts and stand mower up on lower handle as shown in Figure 3.1. Drain oil through dipstick tube into a container.

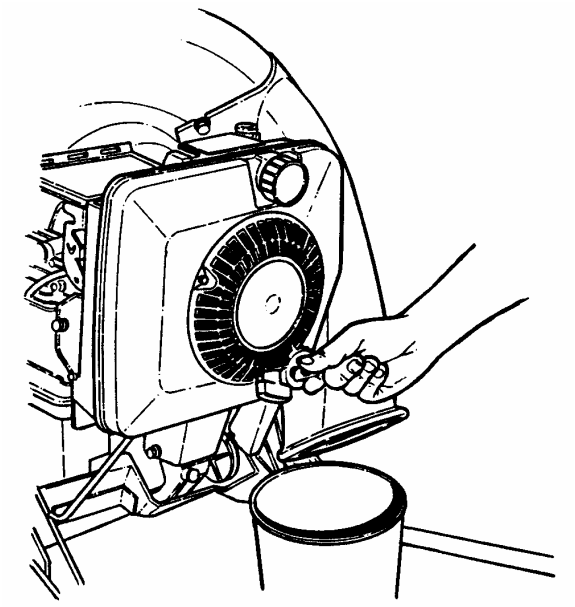


FIGURE 3.1

3.2.2 CHECK MOWER BLADE

1. Disconnect spark plug wire and secure end away from plug.

2. Tilt mower up on its rear wheels for access to the blade cap screw. Do not tilt mower with spark plug or carburetor down. See Figure 3.2.

3. Check torque of blade retaining cap screw. Recommended torque should be 30 to 40 ft. lbs. See Figure 3.2.

4. Check blade for sharpness, wear and damage. Refer to Section "BLADE WEAR LIMITS".

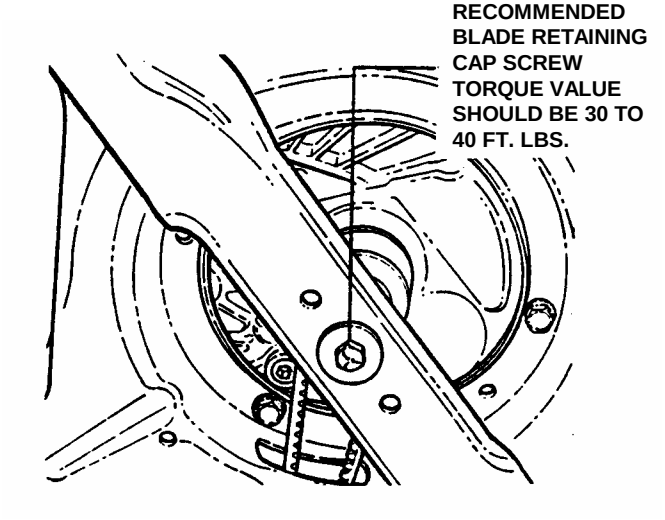


FIGURE 3.2

3.3 SERVICE - ANNUALLY

Perform all maintenance as described in the "Service Schedule" section of this manual.

3.3.1. Engine

Service engine according to engine owner's manual.

3.3.2. Air Filter

Refer to engine owner's manual for service instructions.

3.3.3. Engine Oil

Refer to engine owner's manual for service instructions.

3.4 STORAGE PROCEDURE

Refer to the Engine Owner's Manual for directions regarding engine storage preparations. Prepare the mower for "end of season" storage as follows:

1. Drain fuel from fuel tank and let engine run until all fuel is out of the carburetor.

2. Disconnect and remove the spark plug wire away from spark plug before any other preparations are made!

3. Tape all openings closed to prevent spraying water into exhaust or air intakes during washing.

4. Tilt mower up on its rear wheels and thoroughly clean the underside of the deck. Do not tilt mower with spark plug or carburetor down. Scrape away any accumulation of grass with a putty knife and or wire brush.

5. Lubricate all exposed metal with a light coating of oil to prevent corrosion.

6. On self-propelled models, loosen wing nuts on ground speed control rod before folding handles.

7. Loosen handle knobs. Carefully fold the handles forward, "flexing" the control cables to prevent cable damage.

8. Store the mower in a shed or other dry area, protected from weather.

Section 4 - REPAIR & ADJUSTMENTS

WARNING

DO NOT attempt any maintenance, adjustments or service with engine and blade running. STOP engine and blade. Disconnect spark plug wire and secure away from spark plug. Engine and components are HOT. Avoid serious burns, allow sufficient time for all components to cool. Wear heavy leather gloves when handling or working around cutting blades. Blades are extremely sharp and can cause severe injury.

4.1 MOWER BLADE REPLACEMENT

4.1.1. STANDARD BLADE WEAR LIMIT

1. Inspect blade frequently for signs of excessive wear or damage. See Figure 4.1.

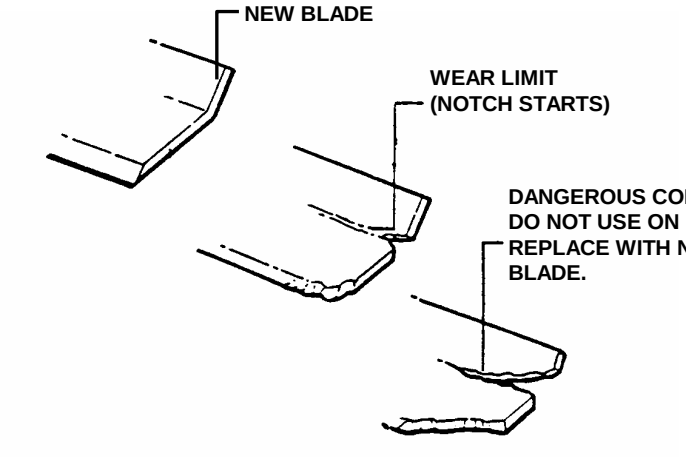


FIGURE 4.1

4.1.1A. NINJA BLADE WEAR LIMIT

1A. Inspect blade frequently for signs of excessive wear or damage. See Figure 4.2.

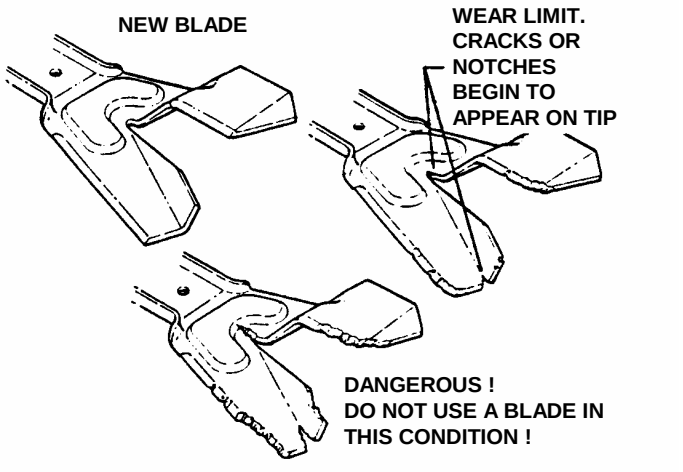


FIGURE 4.2

2. Replace the blade if it is badly chipped, bent, noticeably out of balance or has cracks or notch in either tip. See Figure 4.1 & 4.2. Replace with new blade.

WARNING

DO NOT use a cutting blade that shows signs of excessive wear or damage. Refer to Section "MOWER BLADE REPLACEMENT" for proper blade inspection and service procedures.

4.1.2. BLADE SHARPENING

1. Disconnect spark plug wire and secure end away from plug.

IMPORTANT: DO NOT tip machine with carburetor or spark plug down. Oil from crankcase will saturate the air filter and cause the engine to be hard to start or not start at all. If contamination does occur, the air filter will have to be replaced.

2. Tilt mower up on its rear wheels. Do not tilt mower with spark plug or carburetor down.

3. Remove blade. See Figure 4.3.

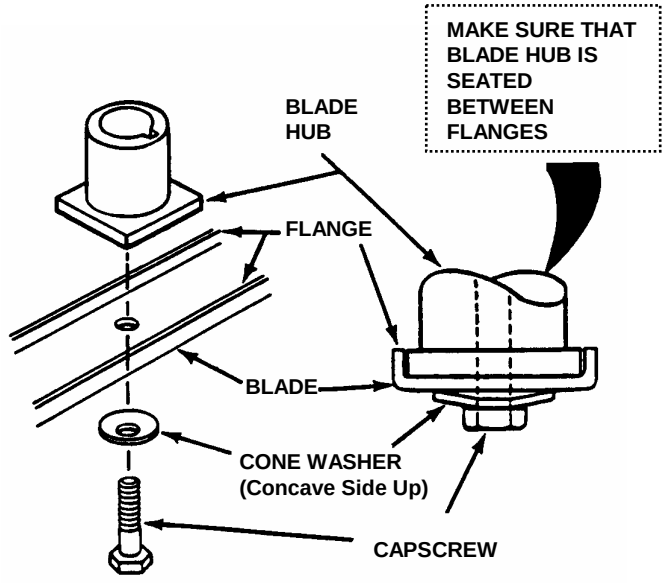


FIGURE 4.3

Section 4 - REPAIR & ADJUSTMENTS

WARNING

DO NOT attempt any maintenance, adjustments or service with engine and blade running. STOP engine and blade. Disconnect spark plug wire and secure away from spark plug. Engine and components are HOT. Avoid serious burns, allow sufficient time for all components to cool. Wear heavy leather gloves when handling or working around cutting blades. Blades are extremely sharp and can cause severe injury.

4. Sharpen blade on a grinding wheel at an angle of 22 to 28 degrees. DO NOT sharpen blade beyond original cutting edge. See Figure 4.4.

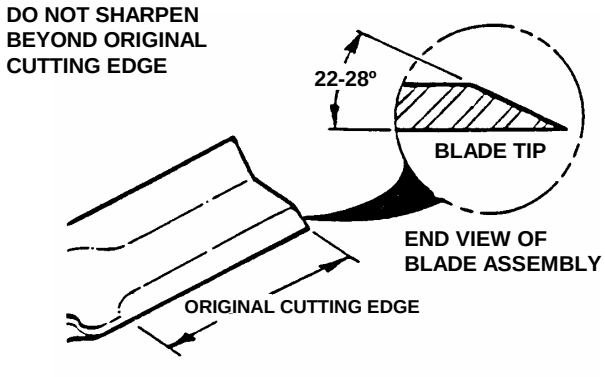


FIGURE 4.4

5. Check blade for balance. If necessary, correct balance by grinding heavy end of blade.

6. Reinstall blade. See Figure 4.2. Check torque of blade retaining cap screw. Recommended torque should be 30 to 40 ft. lbs.

TROUBLESHOOTING

PROBLEM	PROBABLE CAUSE	CORRECTIVE ACTION
Engine Will Not Start Using Recoil Starter	1. Fuel tank empty.	1. Fill fuel tank with fresh fuel.
	2. Engine needs choking or priming.	2. Choke/Prime. Check Engine Manual for Instructions.
	3. Spark plug wire disconnected.	3. Place spark plug wire onto spark plug.
Engine Stalls or Stops After Running	1. Blade control is released or is not being held securely against handle.	1. Blade control should be held securely against handle at all times during operation of mower.
	2. Choke control in the “CHOKE” position.	2. Move choke control to “OFF” position.
	3. Fuel tank empty.	3. Fill with fuel to proper level.
	4. Engine air pre-cleaner and or air cleaner dirty.	4. Clean free of all debris.
	5. Spark plug defective or gap set improperly.	5. Service spark plug.
	6. Water, debris or stale fuel in fuel system.	6. Drain and clean fuel system.
Engine Loses Power	1. Engine air pre-cleaner or air cleaner dirty	1. Clean or replace filters.
	2. Spark plug faulty.	2. Service spark plug.
	3. Water, debris or stale fuel in fuel system.	3. Drain and clean fuel system.
Excessive Vibration	1. Damaged, out of balance or bent mower blade.	1. Service mower blade.
	2. Loose blade components.	2. Service and tighten loose parts.
	3. Loose or missing air lift (if equipped).	3. Replace air lifts. Tighten to proper torque.
Cutting Grass Improperly	1. Cutting height too low or high.	1. Adjust cutting height.
	2. Engine speed too slow.	2. Move engine speed control to “FAST” position.
	3. Forward ground speed too fast.	3. Move ground speed control to a slower speed.
	4. Terraced cut, side to side.	4. Adjust height of cut with height adjust levers.
	5. Excessive deck pitch, front to rear.	5. Adjust height of cut with height adjust levers.
	6. Cutting blade dull or damaged.	6. Sharpen cutting edges or replace blade.
Poor Grass Discharge	1. Engine speed too slow.	1. Move engine speed control to “FAST” position.
	2. Forward speed too fast.	2. Move ground speed control to a slower speed.
	3. Grass is wet.	3. Mow when grass is dry.
	4. Excessively worn or damaged blade.	4. Service mower blade.
	5. Build up of grass clippings and debris under deck.	5. Clean deck.
	6. Improper blade installed on deck.	6. Install proper **SNAPPER** blade.
	7. Blade installed improperly on deck.	7. Install blade properly.
Oil Leaking	1. Leaking engine case.	1. Contact authorized **SNAPPER** dealer. 2. Check and tighten drain plug. 3. Make sure dip stick or oil filler cap is securely in place.

SERVICE SCHEDULE

ITEM	SERVICE PERFORMED	REF.	EACH USE	5 HRS	25 HRS	50 HRS	100 HRS	EACH SEASON
Engine Oil	Check Oil Level	Page 6	**X**					
	Initial Oil Change	Page 9		**X**				
	Periodic Oil Change	Page 9			**X***			
Air Pre-Cleaner	Clean Sponge Element	Engine Manual & Page 9.			**X****			
Air Cleaner	Clean or Replace	Engine Manual.			**X****			
Spark Plug	Replace	Engine Manual.					**X**	
Engine Cooling System	Clean Shroud & Fins	Engine Manual					**X****	
Mower Blade	Check For Wear, Damage & Replacement	Page 10-11	**X**					
Mower Deck	Clean Debris Accumulation	Page 9	**X**					

***Change oil every 25 hours when operating under heavy load or high temperatures.
****Clean more often under dusty conditions or when air debris is present

4.2. MAINTENANCE/REPLACEMENT PARTS

MAINTENANCE PARTS	
Engine Speed Control (Briggs Engines)	**2-9036**
Blade Control Cable (See Parts Manual)	**7-2933**
Cutter Blade (Mulching)	**1-7168**
Cutter Blade (Not Air Lift Compatible)	**2-6691**
Cutter Blade (Ninja - Quad Edge)	**2-6407**
Parts Manual for 21" Steel Deck Walk Behind Mower Series 12, 14, 15 & 16	**06059**

SNAPPER®

3 YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY

For three (3) years from purchase date for the original purchaser's residential, non-commercial use, **SNAPPER**, through any authorized **SNAPPER** dealer will replace, free of charge (except for taxes where applicable), any part or parts found upon examination by the factory at McDonough, Georgia, to be defective in material or workmanship or both.

For ninety (90) days from purchase date for the original purchaser's commercial, rental, or other non-residential use, **SNAPPER**, through any authorized **SNAPPER** dealer will replace, free of charge, any part or parts found upon examination by the factory at McDonough, Georgia, to be defective in material or workmanship or both.

All transportation costs incurred by the purchaser in submitting material to an authorized **SNAPPER** dealer for replacement under this warranty must be paid by the purchaser.

This warranty does not apply to engines and their components, and batteries, as these items are warranted separately. This warranty does not apply to parts that have been damaged by accident, alteration, abuse, improper lubrication, normal wear, or other cause beyond the control of **SNAPPER**. This warranty does not cover any machine or component part that has been altered or modified changing safety, performance, or durability.

Batteries have a one (1) year prorated warranty period with free replacement if required during the first ninety (90) days from the original purchase date. **SNAPPER** will not be responsible for any installation cost incurred. The battery warranty only covers original equipment batteries and does not cover damage to the battery or machine caused by neglect or abuse, destruction by fire, explosion, freezing, overcharging, improper maintenance, or use of improper electrolyte.

There is no other express warranty.

DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTY

Implied warranties, including those of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose, are limited to three (3) years from purchase date for the original purchaser's residential or other non-commercial use, and ninety (90) days from purchase for the original purchaser's commercial, rental or other non-residential use, and to the extent permitted by law, any and all implied warranties are excluded. This is the exclusive remedy. Liabilities for consequential damages, under any and all warranties are excluded.

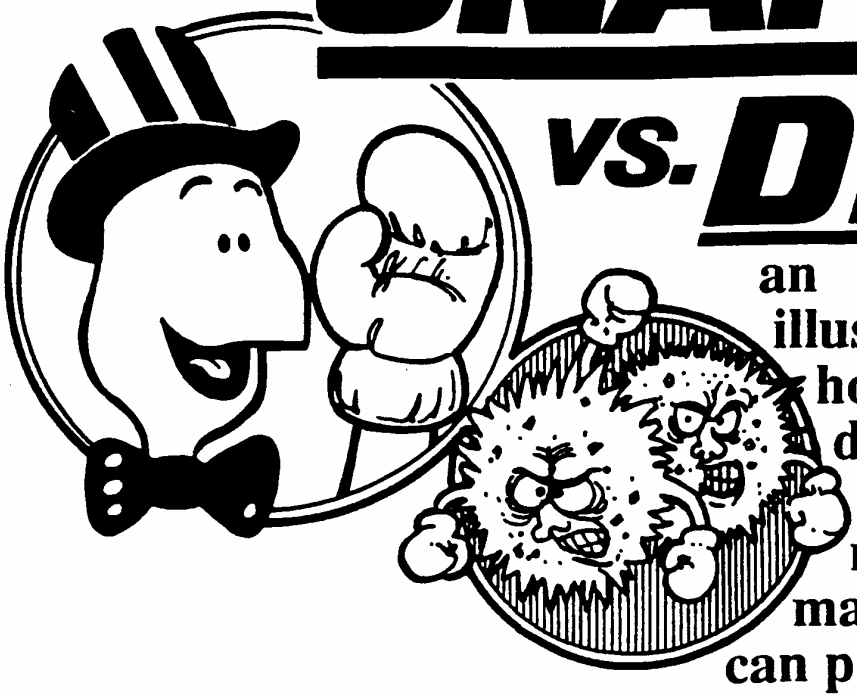
Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts, or do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

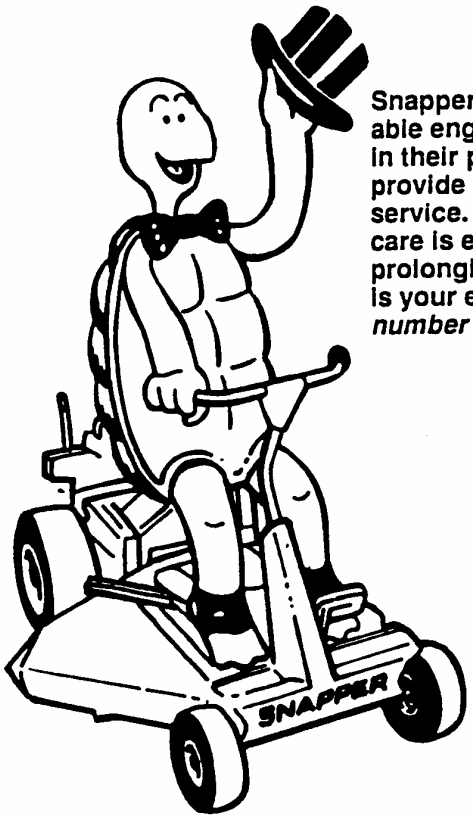
WARNING: THE USE OF REPLACEMENT PARTS OTHER THAN GENUINE SNAPPER PARTS MAY IMPAIR THE SAFETY OF SNAPPER PRODUCTS AND WILL VOID ANY LIABILITY AND WARRANTY BY SNAPPER ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF SUCH PARTS.

IMPORTANT: Please fill out the attached **SNAPPER** Product Registration Card immediately and mail to:
Snapper's Product Registration Center, P.O. Box 1379, McDonough, Georgia 30253

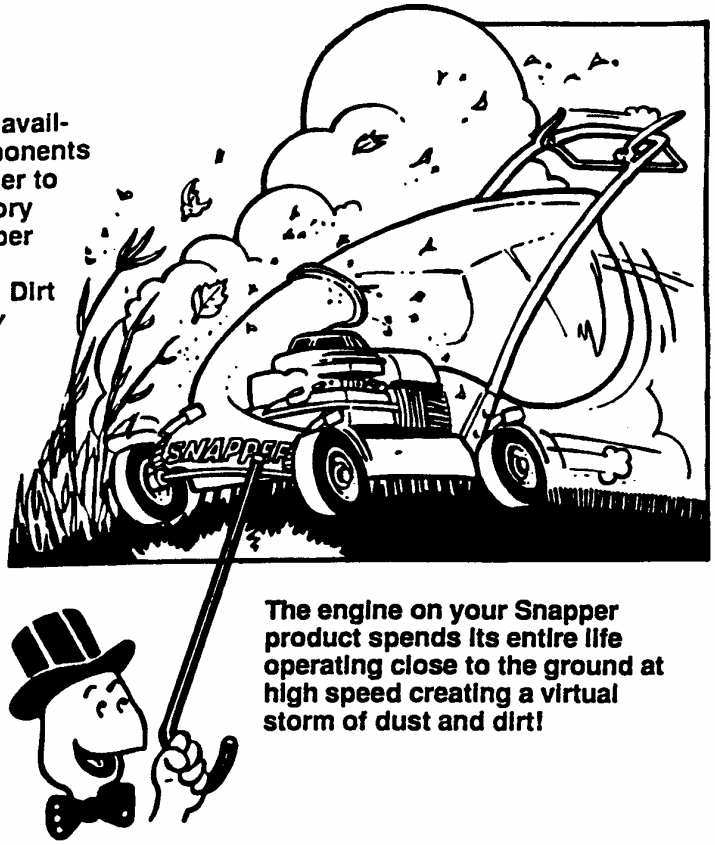
SNAPPER® vs. DIRT!



an illustration of how dirt can damage your engine & how reasonable maintenance can protect it!

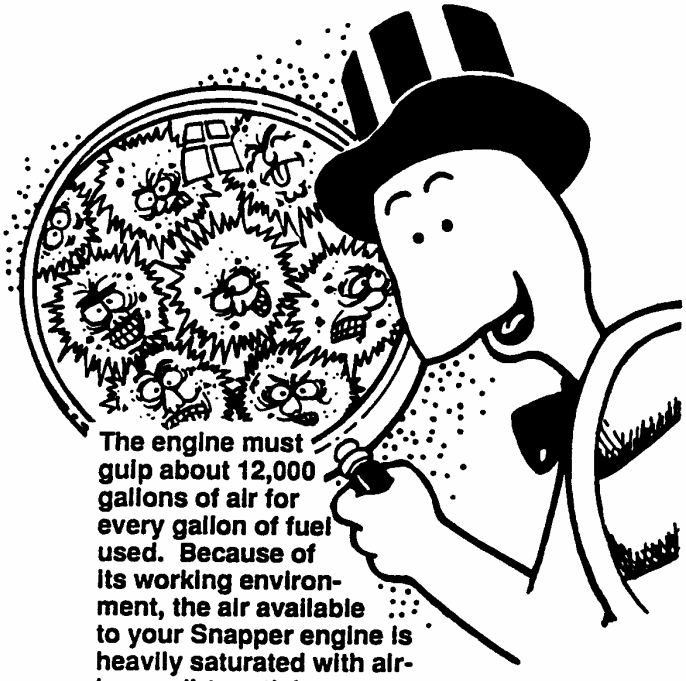


Snapper uses the best available engines and components in their products in order to provide long, satisfactory service. However, proper care is essential in prolonging engine life. Dirt is your engine's *enemy number 1*!

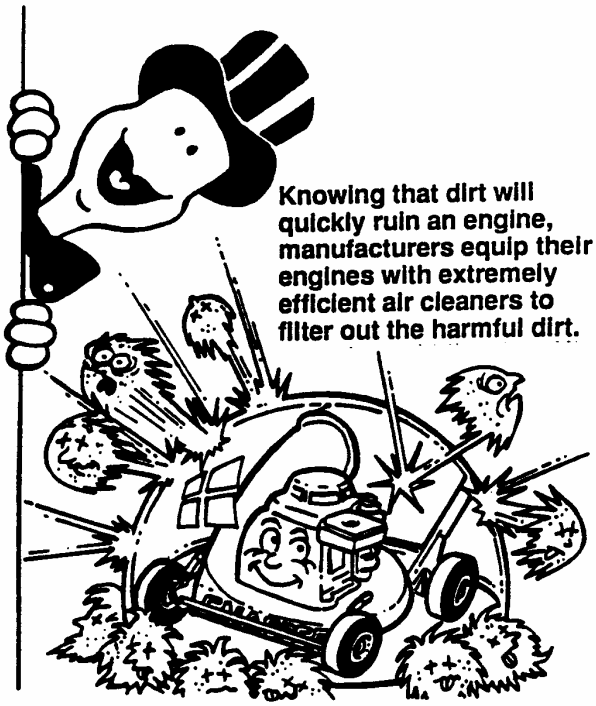


The engine on your Snapper product spends its entire life operating close to the ground at high speed creating a virtual storm of dust and dirt!

PRIMARY MAINTENANCE



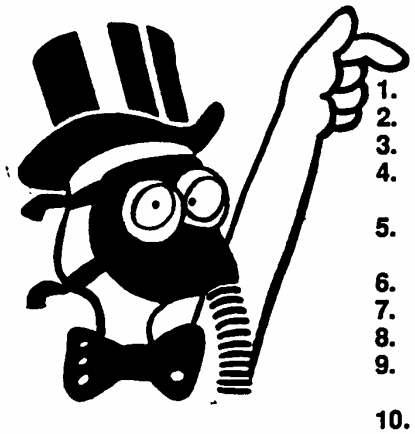
The engine must gulp about 12,000 gallons of air for every gallon of fuel used. Because of its working environment, the air available to your Snapper engine is heavily saturated with airborne dirt particles.



Knowing that dirt will quickly ruin an engine, manufacturers equip their engines with extremely efficient air cleaners to filter out the harmful dirt.

As the dirt particles are stopped, they build up and begin to clog the outside of the filter. This reduces the amount of air available to the engine and causes an over-rich fuel mixture which results in the following adverse effects:

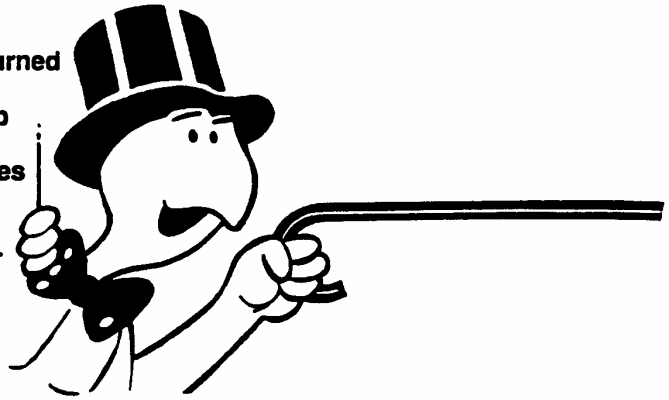
An improperly serviced, dirt clogged air cleaner will:



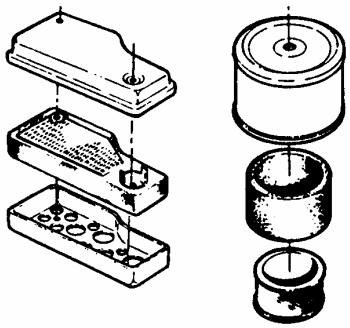
1. increase fuel consumption
2. cause power loss
3. result in hard starting
4. create smoke from unburned fuel
5. produce carbon build-up internally
6. foul spark plug electrodes
7. score cylinder walls
8. burn valves
9. wear out the engine prematurely
10. COST YOU MONEY!

Damage caused by a poorly serviced air cleaner is not covered under the engine warranties. So, save yourself unnecessary expenses and undue aggravation by keeping the air cleaner properly serviced at the intervals specified in the engine owner's manual.

It doesn't take long to service an air cleaner. Follow the specific instructions in the engine owner's manual for the type filter used. Prevent dirt from falling into the carburetor intake when servicing your air cleaner. Make sure components are installed in correct sequence after servicing to prevent unfiltered air from entering the engine. Some servicing hints on several common types are:



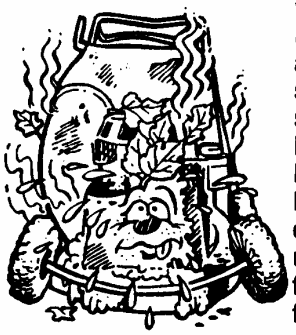
PRIMARY MAINTENANCE



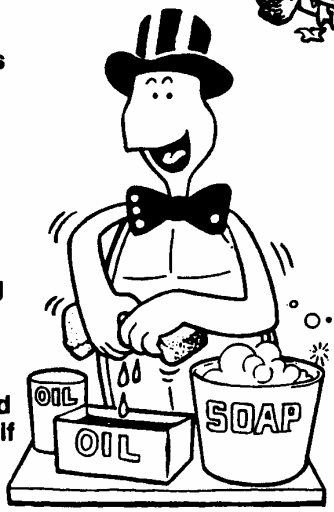
Generally, wash foam-type filters in a dishwashing detergent and water solution. Rinse and wring dry, then saturate with oil and squeeze out excess. *Failure to re-oil this type filter will ruin the engine.*

Clean paper elements by tapping lightly. Blowing with air will rupture paper elements.

Use a flashlight to detect clogged or torn paper elements - replace if damaged in any way.

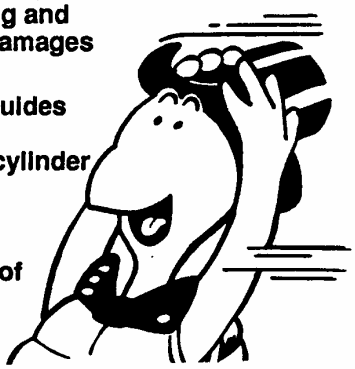


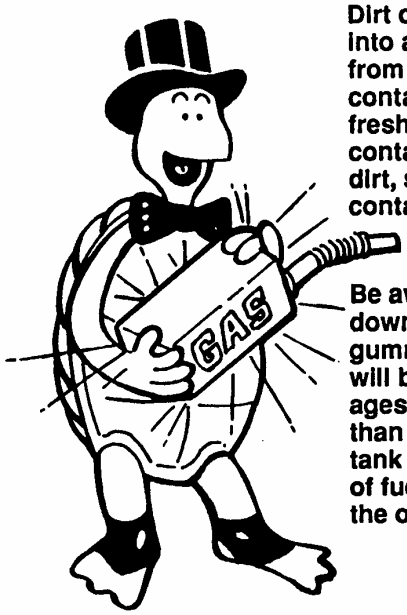
Air is also needed to keep your engine cool. Dirt, dust & debris build up to restrict and clog cooling air intake screens and fins. Clean screens and fins at frequent intervals. The engine blower housing and shrouds should be removed at least once each season or more often under dry, dusty conditions for a thorough cleaning of fins.



Failure to keep external surfaces clean not only presents fire hazards, but causes overheating and resulting engine damages such as:

1. distorted valve guides
2. sticking valves
3. scuffed, scored cylinder walls
4. overspeeding
5. loss of power
6. complete failure of engine.





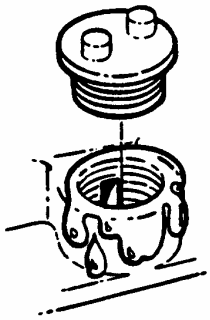
Dirt can also be introduced into an engine in dirty fuel from a contaminated container. Always use clean fresh fuel from a clean container to guard against dirt, sludge and water contamination.

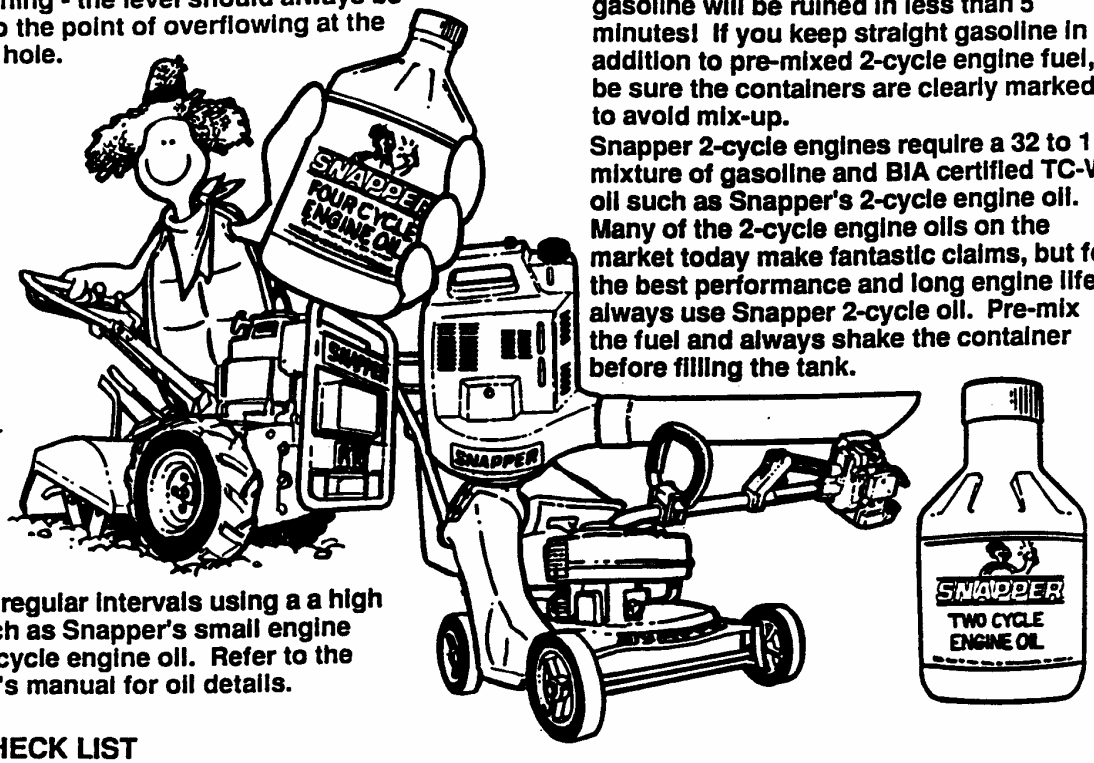
Be aware that fuel breaks down in storage and forms gummy compounds which will block carburetor passages. Never use fuel more than 3 months old. Drain tank then run the engine out of fuel before storing during the off-season.

An engine must also have proper lubrication. All engines use some oil. On 4-cycle engines, CHECK OIL LEVEL BEFORE EACH START-UP. Wipe area clean around the oil check plug or dipstick opening to keep dirt from falling into the engine when checking the oil. Always check with the machine on a level surface. On engines with dipstick, keep the level up to, but not over, the FULL mark. When adding oil, allow time for all of the oil to flow down the fill tube to prevent a false full reading when the level could actually be low and result in engine damage.

PRIMARY MAINTENANCE

On 4-cyle engines with an oil level plug, don't be fooled into thinking the engine has sufficient lubricating oil if you can see "some" oil in the opening - the level should always be brought up to the point of overflowing at the top of the fill hole.





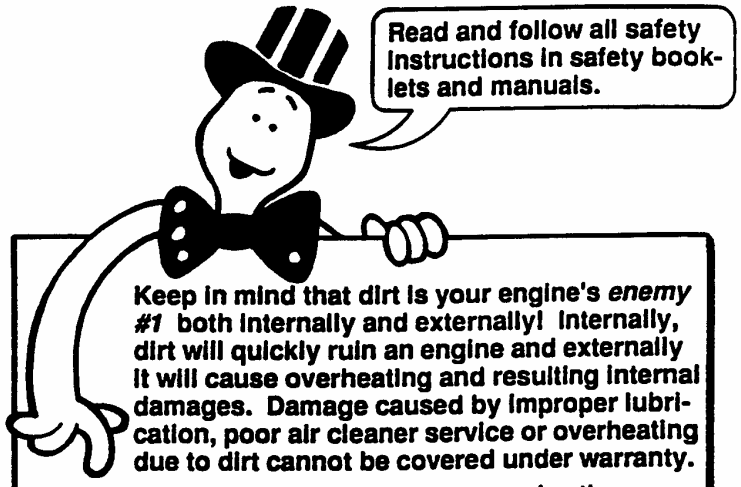
On 2-cycle engines, lubrication must be provided by an exact mixture of gasoline and 2-cycle air-cooled engine oil. A 2-cycle engine that is mistakenly run on straight gasoline will be ruined in less than 5 minutes! If you keep straight gasoline in addition to pre-mixed 2-cycle engine fuel, be sure the containers are clearly marked to avoid mix-up.

Snapper 2-cycle engines require a 32 to 1 mixture of gasoline and BIA certified TC-W oil such as Snapper's 2-cycle engine oil. Many of the 2-cycle engine oils on the market today make fantastic claims, but for the best performance and long engine life, always use Snapper 2-cycle oil. Pre-mix the fuel and always shake the container before filling the tank.

Change oil at regular intervals using a a high quality oil such as Snapper's small engine formulated 4-cycle engine oil. Refer to the engine owner's manual for oil details.

STARTING CHECK LIST

1.	Engine Oil	• To full level (4-cycle) • Properly mixed with gas (2 cycle)
2.	Air Cleaner	• Clean and properly serviced • Full fresh clean gasoline
3.	Fuel Tank	• Fuel valve open • Cap vent open • Inline filter clean
4.	Choke	• Operating properly
5.	Primer (on some engines)	• Used properly
6.	Safety Interlock Switches	• In proper position • All wires properly connected
7.	Switch & Blade Control	• Switch On • Blade control properly positioned on walk mower
8.	Spark plug	• Wire connected • Good connection
9.	Throttle control	• Start position
10.	Blade	• Properly installed and torqued • Sharpened
11.	Muffler	• Good condition • Not clogged • Grass & leaves cleaned away



Keep in mind that dirt is your engine's *enemy #1* both internally and externally! Internally, dirt will quickly ruin an engine and externally it will cause overheating and resulting internal damages. Damage caused by improper lubrication, poor air cleaner service or overheating due to dirt cannot be covered under warranty.

It only takes a few moments to service the engine (and equipment) on a routine basis but the rewards will be a quick starting, responsive engine that will provide long satisfactory service with minimum maintenance cost. The prestart checklist in the next column and instructions in your Snapper Operator's Manual are designated to help you keep your Snapper in top operating condition with minimum effort!

NOTES

Safety Instructions & Operator's Manual for

SNAPPER®

21" STEEL DECK WALK BEHIND MOWERS SERIES 15

IMPORTANT

Snapper products are built using engines that meet or exceed all applicable emissions requirements on the date manufactured. The labels on those engines contain very important emissions information and critical safety warnings. Read, Understand, and Follow all warnings and instructions in this manual, the engine manual, and on the machine, engine and attachments. If you have any questions about your Snapper product, contact your local authorized Snapper dealer or contact Snapper Customer Service at Snapper, McDonough, GA. 30253. Phone: (1-800-935-2967).

⚠ WARNING: **The engine exhaust from this product contains chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm.**

SNAPPER® McDonough, GA., 30253 U.S.A.

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